

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 06359 281508Z

42

ACTION AF-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 06359

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, KE, UK, US, MASS

SUBJECT: KENYAN ARMS REQUEST

1. DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY AT FCO, ALAN CAMPBELL, TOLD AF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY JAMES BLAKE ON APRIL 25 THAT HE CONCERNED OVER BRITISH ABILITY TO BE RESPONSIVE TO KENYAN REQUEST FOR ARMS. IN VIEW KENYAN MILITARY'S UNEASINESS OVER CAPABILITIES AND INTENTIONS OF THEIR NEIGHBORS, BRITISH FEEL THAT UNLESS HMG SUFFICIENTLY RESPONSIVE TO KENYAN REQUEST, KENYAN MILITARY WILL TURN RESTLESS AND BECOME AN ELEMENT OF INSTABILITY. CAMPBELL SAID THAT HE DID NOT FEEL THAT THIS POINT HAD BEEN REACHED, BUT WAS FEARFUL THAT IT COULD BE IF KENYAN MILITARY NOT SATISFIED WITH UK RESPONSE TO THEIR ARMS REQUEST.

2. AS FAR AS BRITISH ARE CONCERNED, CAMPBELL SAID, THERE IS NO HOPE THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH FINANCING FOR TYPE OF PROGRAM GENERAL MANS HAS RECOMMENDED, WHICH WILL COST UPWARDS OF 80 MILLION POUNDS SPREAD OVER EIGHT-YEAR PERIOD. IN ADDITION TO SELLING SOME EQUIPMENT (ON TERMS DESCRIBED PREVIOUS TELS), WHAT BRITISH FEEL THEY CAN DO IS TO PROVIDE PROGRAM TYPE CIVILIAN AID WHICH SHOULD HELP WITH BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DURING PERIOD FOR WHICH MILITARY PROGRAM WOULD HAVE TO BE FUNDED. MOST
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PAGE 02 LONDON 06359 281508Z

BRITISH COULD DO ALONG THESE LINES IS ABOUT 2 TO 3 MIL-

LION POUNDS PER YEAR, AND THEY CANNOT LOOK AHEAD MORE THAN TWO TO THREE YEARS BECAUSE OF NECESSITY TO OBTAIN FUNDING AUTHORITY. CAMPBELL SAID HE HAD IN MIND SOFT LOANS AND GRANTS OF A PROGRAM NATURE.

3. BLAKE TOLD CAMPBELL THAT US HAD PROPOSED TO KENYANS THAT THEY CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF REFURBISHED F5A'S, BUT COMMENTED THAT ORIGINAL KENYAN REACTION TO THIS HAD BEEN MIXED, ALTHOUGH WE HAD SUBSEQUENTLY HEARD THAT KENYANS WERE INTERESTED. IN THIS CONNECTION CAMPBELL SAID HE FELT US OFFER OF PLANES WAS GENEROUS AND HELPFUL ONE, WHICH SHOULD GO SOME WAY TOWARD SOLVING KENYAN PROBLEM.

RICHARDSON

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